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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/353,847	07/15/1999	HYUN CHANG LEE	8733/PD-6981	4171

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MCKENNA LONG & ALDRIDGE LLP
1900 K STREET, NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20006

EXAMINER

ANYASO, UCHENDU O

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2675

21

DATE MAILED: 01/05/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/353,847

Applicant(s)

LEE ET AL.

Examiner

Uchendu O Anyaso

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 December 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 15. 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

1. **Claims 1-26** are pending in this action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC ' 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. **Claims 1-26** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moon et al (US Patent 5,793,346) in view of *Osada* (U.S. 6,271,812).

Regarding **independent claims 1, 9, 11 and 19**, and for **claims 4-8 and 10**, Moon teaches a circuit and method of clearing a TFT LCD when the external power is removed from the liquid crystal display (column 1, lines 6-12).

Furthermore, Moon teaches a liquid crystal display device, comprising a plurality of data lines, a plurality of thin-film transistor (TFT) liquid crystal display cells electrically coupled to said plurality of data lines and arranged as a first string of TFT display cells electrically coupled together by a first gate line and a second string of TFT display cells electrically coupled together by a second gate line, said second string of TFT display cells comprising respective support capacitors therein electrically coupled to said first gate line (column 4, lines 37-48).

Furthermore, Moon teaches a screen clearing circuit 40 connected at an input to the gate driving circuit 10 wherein the controller 30 controls gate driving circuit 10, which supplies gate

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on/off voltages sequentially through the gate lines to the thin film transistors 70 (column 4, lines 12-23, figure 6 at 10, 30).

Furthermore, the gate on/off generator 50 generates the V_{off} and V_{on} voltages which are sent to the gate lines by the gate driving circuit 10 (column 4, lines 23-25, figure 6 at 10, 50) wherein the screen clearing circuit 40 is connected to the V_{off} output of gate on/off generator 50 (column 4, lines 25-26). When the external power is disconnected, the screen clearing circuit 40 operates to discharge the storage capacitors 80 connected to the gate lines (column 4, lines 27-29). Elimination of the residual image improves the quality of TFT LCDs (column 4, lines 33-34). This invention may be used in a wide variety of display devices such as notebook computers, handheld devices, and flat panel television screens (column 4, lines 33-36).

However, Moon does not teach how to eliminate residual images by applying a voltage level for turning off the TFT transistors upon power-on. On the other hand, Osada teaches an electroluminescent display device in which residual images stored as electric charges in pixels are eliminated or made invisible on the display panel (column 1, lines 14-17) wherein the residual picture images are eliminated when the EL display panel is turned on (column 9, lines 49-51, figures 16-19).

Thus, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine Moon and Osada because while Moon teaches the concept of clearing a TFT LCD when the external power is removed from the liquid crystal display (column 1, lines 6-12), Osada teaches how the residual pictures images would be eliminated by turning on the display device. The motivation for combining these inventions would have been to achieve a display device wherein

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undesirable images appearing on a display screen are made invisible upon power on (column 2, lines 16-26).

Regarding **claims 2 and 3**, in further discussion of claim 1, Moon teaches how the first voltage level has a lower voltage level than a minimum value of the image signals (*see* figure 5; *see also* Abstract).

Regarding **claims 12-18, 20-26**, in further discussion of claims 11 and 19, Moon teaches an invention that comprises a capacitor of which one end is connected to the external power; a diode of which the anode is connected to the other end of said capacitor, and the cathode is grounded; and a PMOS transistor of which the gate electrode is connected to the anode of said diode and the other end of said capacitor, the source electrode is grounded, and the drain electrode is connected to one end of a support capacitor of a TFT LCD (column 2, lines 10-27).

Furthermore, Moon teaches a means for detecting whether external power has been shut off; charging the support capacitor if the external power is not shut off, and then returning to the first detecting step; discharging the support capacitor if the external power is shut off, and then returning to the first detecting step (column 2, lines 28-35).

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-26 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Please, see new grounds for rejection above.

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Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

U.S. Patent 6,580,411 to *Kubota et al* for a latch circuit, shift register circuit and image display device operated with a low consumption of power.

U.S. Patent 5,754,155 to Kubota et al for an image display device.

U.S. Patent 4,975,691 to Lee for a scan inversion symmetric drive.

U.S. Patent 5,990,857 to Kubota et al for a shift register having a plurality of circuit blocks and image display apparatus using the shift register.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Uchendu O. Anyaso whose telephone number is (703) 306-5934. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Steve Saras, can be reached at (703) 305-9720.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 872-9314 (for Technology Center 2600 only)


Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA, Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Technology Center 2600 Customer Service Office whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.

Uchendu O. Anyaso

12/29/2003


CHANH NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER